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(54) Title: **ALPHA 4 BETA 2 DELTA GABA-A RECEPTORS AS A STRATEGY FOR PMS AND ALCOHOLISM**

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to a screening mechanism for identifying members of the general population at increased risk for alcoholism and premenstrual syndrome. The screening mechanisms may be used to measure the expression of the  $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$  GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, in order to identify members of the general population as having an increased sensitivity to lower concentrations alcohol coupled with a decrease sensitivity to higher concentrations of alcohol, a scenario frequently found in patients suffering from alcoholism and premenstrual anxiety. Methods of screening for drugs which decrease expression of the  $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$  subunit of GABA<sub>A</sub> are also provided.



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